

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 EC BRU 06739 211514Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-20

DRC-01 /138 W

----- 051730

R 211230Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO UFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 9710

AMEMASSSY BRUSSELS

QMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 2860

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 6739

FOR COMMERCE AND STR

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: EGEN, EIND, EEC

SUB: US GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT POLICY

REF: A) USOECD PARIS 29378

B) EC BRUSSELS 6309

C) STATE 217448

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 EC BRU 06739 211514Z

1. SUMMARY: WE HAVE FOLLOWED UP WITH THE COMMISSION REGARDING GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT DISCUSSIONS AT THE RECENT US-EC CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON (SOAMES-CASEY TALKS). THE "THREE WISE MEN" STUDY MENTIONED BY EC DIRECTOR GENERAL RONALD GRIERSON IN WASHINGTON IS JUST GETTING STARTED AND THE REPORT IS TO BE COMPLETED IN JUNE. GRIERSON THOUGHT A SENIOR US OFFICIAL FAMILIAR WITH THE SUBJECT--SUCH AS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOX--MIGHT MEET WITH THE WISE MEN WITHIN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE MONTHS. THE COMMISSION STAFF IS ALSO CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INFORMAL BILATERAL MEETING WITH A US GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT EXPERT IN DECEMBER. END SUMMARY.

2. MISSION OFFICERS SPOKE WITH EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR GENERAL RONALD GRIERSON ON NOVEMBER 14 AND WITH HIS ASSISTANT ROGER LWEIS ON NOVEMBER 20 AS A FOLLOW UP TO THE DISCUSSION ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT WHICH TOOK PLACE IN WASHINGTON DURING SOAMES-CASEY MEETING (SEE REF C, PARA 3).

3. WISE MEN STUDY OF GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT--GRIERSON TOLD US THAT ONLY TWO OF THE THREE WISE MEN HAVE BEEN SELECTED AND THAT THEY WERE JUST BEGINNING THEIR FACT-FINDING MISSION WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PRESENTING A REPORT TO THE EC COMMISSION IN JUNE. THE TWO, WHO GRIERSON CONSIDERS TO BE OF CONSIDERABLE STANDING AND COMPETENCE ARE SIR RICHARD CLARK, A FORMER PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH BOARD OF TRADE AND GUY CHARPENTIER OF THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS WHO WILL BE TAKING UP A SENIOR POSITION AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT IN THE FALL OF 1974. GRIERSON THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF A US POLICY-LEVEL OFFICIAL SUCH AS LARRY FOX OF COMMERCE COULD MEET WITH THE WISE MEN IN THE COURSE OF THE NEXT TWO OR THREE MONTHS, AFTER THEY HAVE MADE THE ROUNDS OF THE EC CAPITALS. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT FOX MAY ATTEND THE OECD TRADE COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN LATE FEBRUARY AND THAT MIGHT PRESENT A GOOD OCCASION FOR A BRUSSELS MEETING). GRIERSON SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE THE WISE MEN CONTACT US ABOUT A SPECIFIC DATE.

4. ROGER LEWIS, IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, EXPANDED ON THE MISSION OF THE WISE MEN. HE ADMITTED THAT AT PRESENT THE EC'S GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT DRAFT DIRECTIVE IS BLOCKED. THERE IS GENERAL SUSPICION IN THE EC CAPITALS THAT OTHER EC PARTNERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 EC BRU 06739 211514Z

WILL NOT APPLY THE RULES. THE WISE MEN WILL NOT FOCUS ON THE LEGALISTIC PROBLEMS PRESENTED BY THE DRAFT BUT WILL EXPLORE ATTITUDES AND TRY TO DETERMINE WHAT IS NECESSARY TO UNBLOCK THE LOG JAM--OR AT LEAST PERMIT SOME PROGRESS. THEY ARE NOT PRE-JUDGING THE ISSUES BUT ARE TRYING TO FIND THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND IN DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES THAT HAVE TO BE OVERCOME. THEY WILL LOOK FOR THE KIND OF UNDERSTANDING THAT IS NEEDED ON ALL SIDES TO MOVE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT HARMONIZATION

FORWARD. THEY DO NOT HAVE A MANDATE TO PROPOSE DETAILED REGULATIONS BUT WILL PRESENT CONCLUSIONS WHICH MIGHT SUGGEST THEM. WE QUESTIONED LEWIS AS TO WHETHER THEIR FINDINGS MIGHT LEAD TO EXCEPTING CERTAIN SENSITIVE SECTORS. (WE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE FRENCH FAVOR A SECTORAL APPROACH. LEWIS SAID THAT IT MIGHT NOT NECESSARILY COME OUT THAT WAY BUT THE WISE MEN'S EFFORTS COULD BRING AT LEAST PARTIAL PROGRESS IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT LEAVING GENERAL SOLUTION FOR LATER.

5. THE MISSION HAS SUGGESTED TO LEWIS THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR A US GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST TO MEET WITH THE COMMISSION PRIOR TO OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE OECD TRADE COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP MEETING BEGINNING ON DECEMBER 10 AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL A. LEWIS IS CHECKING WITH APPROPRIATE PARTS OF THE COMMISSION AND WILL GIVE US AN ANSWER BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK.
GREENWALD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ECBRU06739
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731120/aaaaaoty.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) USOECD PARIS 29378
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <06-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT POLICY
TAGS: EGEN, EIND, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005